



OESNEWS

Governor's Office of Emergency Services

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State OES Provides Fire Engines to Monterey County Departments

SACRAMENTO – The Governor's Office of Emergency Services (OES) formally transferred a new state-of-the-art fire engine to the Salinas Rural Fire Protection District and an older engine previously assigned to another agency to the North County Fire Protection District during ceremonies today at Laguna Seca Raceway in Monterey County.

"The OES engine program is a win-win situation," said OES Director Henry Renteria. "Stationing engines owned by OES in local departments benefits the local agencies by providing them with state-of-the art resources they can use to protect the lives and property in their communities.

"Equally important is the flexibility that having engines located with local agencies provides us in coordinating the statewide fire and rescue mutual aid system," Renteria added. "Instead of having to deploy state resources from one centralized location, possibly hundreds of miles and hours away from a major fire or disaster, we're able to deploy these engines from fire houses much closer to the emergency."

The new \$278,000 engine provided to the Salinas Rural Fire District features modern radios, an automatic transmission and other features that meet National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) standards. The rig, which qualifies as a Type 3 Light Urban Search and Rescue (USAR) apparatus, is equipped with a shorter wheel base than previous OES engines, allowing it to be used in wildland-urban interface fires as well as earthquakes and other emergencies.

The transfer of the new engine to Salinas Rural Fire Protection District is part of an effort by OES to replace 21 of its current 110-engine fleet during a three-year replacement cycle at a total cost of \$5.8 million. The current replacement cycle began last year with the allocation of nine new engines.

The formal transfer of the previously-assigned engine to the North County Fire Protection District today and the allocation of a new engine to the Carmel Valley Fire Protection District in 2004 are also part of ongoing efforts by OES to strengthen the response capability of local fire agencies during emergencies within their communities and other areas of the state. In exchange for the ability to use the OES engines in select day-to-day operations, recipient agencies agree to staff the engines and deploy them to major fires outside their communities at the request of OES.

"The OES engine program has multiple benefits," said Salinas Rural Fire District Chief Michael Urquides. "It allows us to have the newest technologies available to fight fires within the County of Monterey or throughout the state."

In addition to replacing the 21 older engines in its current fleet, OES will use \$5 million in supplemental funding approved by Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger as part of the 2005/06 budget to increase the current fleet to 129 by the end of the year. The planned purchase of 19 engines with the supplemental funding will move the OES fleet closer to the goal of 250 recommended by the Governor's Blue Ribbon Commission after the 2003 Southern California wild fires.

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